CASTRO ASKS ARBITRATION

But Continues Preparations for War, While Germans

LONDON, Dec. 13 .- Up to 5 o'clock this

now believed the situation is less critical

sponsibility for sinking a Venezuelan war-

ship; the Venezuelans are preparing to de-

fend Caracas and Laguayra, and the block-

ade of the Venezuelan coast continues. On

Thursday it was reported that Germans

and British at Puerto Cabello had been im-

prisoned. This morning the Daily Mail

prints the following from Willemstad, Cura-

board the German cruiser Vineta and the

British cruiser Ariadne. These vessels are

Lord Lansdowne made a speech last even-

ing, which is held to show that the situa-

the opinion is expressed that President Cas-

tro's reported request for arbitration has

come too late, this step on his part is wel-

comed as a proof of his anxiety to with

The morning newspapers express various

opinions as to the arbitration proposals,

a guarantee made by the United States or

carry out an award no reason exists why

Great Britain should refuse to consent to

arbitration. It is believed, however, that

neither Great Britain nor Germany is like-

other representatives of Venezuela in

European cities all betray a stronger feel-

Britain, as well as reliance upon the United

States to prevent any Anglo-German in-

vasion of Venezuela. The Venezuelan con-

sul at Genoa is credited with the assertion

that the armed intervention of the United

A dispatch from Berlin to the Morning

Post says the British commander in Vene

zuelan waters will, as senior officer, in the

future direct all joint action by the Anglo-

German fleet after having consulted with

Commodore Scheder, the German com-

mander. Germany has no intention of

sending a force to the interior of Vene-

zuela. All German action, according to the

correspondent, will be confined to the coast

In a dispatch from Paris the correspond-

ent of the Daily Express gives an inter-

view with Senor Maubourgit, the Vene-

zuelan representative in Paris. He says:

"Germany's true motive in urging Great

Britain to that country's present course

was found in the question of trade. Ameri-

cans lately have been pushing German

products out of the South American mar-

ket," continued the Venezuelan envoy,

"and Germany's consular representatives in

South America are constantly impressing

this fact upon their government. Of course,

American competition also injured British

trade. The present trouble will strengthen

Blockade Enforced.

PORT OF SPAIN, Island of Trinidad,

Dec. 12.-The captured Venezuelan gun-

boats are now manned by British sailors

men-of-war continue to blockade the Ven-

CASTRO WOULD ARBITRATE.

Makes a Proposition Through the

United States Minister.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.-A cablegram

received at the State Department to-day

from Minister Bowen at Caracas states

injuries to British and German subjects

tration. Secretary Hay went immediately

to the Cabinet meeting after the receipt

the State Department the British and Ger-

man embassies were placed in possession

of the news from Venezuela and it was im-

partment to Minister Bowen, who will in-

form the Venezuelan President. It is cer-

tain the State Department is willing to

go to any reasonable length to settle the

difficulty in Venezuela in any manner that

shall be honorable and satisfactory to all

parties. Therefore Secretary Hay to-day

replied to Mr. Bowen's cablegram author-

izing him, in his discretion, to use his

good office to secure arbitration. He was,

however, made to understand that in the

arbitration, if one should follow, he would

United States, but that of Venezuela at

Not much hope is entertained of the

favorable reception of the proposition at

has progressed too far for a settlement by

destruction of their navy, in the seizure

into those of real war, although technically

course taken during the war with China,

when, notwithstanding the fact that the

allied fleet battered down Taku and cap-

tured and distributed a number of Chinese

vessels, no declaration of war was forth-

It is realized here that the outcome is

very doubtful, and the way is beset with

difficulties. If the claims against Venezu-

ela were only those of Great Britain and

Germany the adjustment might be easier,

but France and Italy, the United States

and perhaps other nations also have claims

and they cannot accept any arrangement

which Great Britain and Germany might

Castro's proposition was considered at

the Cabinet meeting to-day and it was re-

force upon Venezuela, which would de-

prive them of their right of reclamation.

represent not the government of

President Castro's position 'mmensely."

States would be certain to follow imme-

diately such invasion.

ly to accept the arbitration proposal.

threatening to bombard the port."

VALUE OF THE ARSENAL SITE

Board of Appraisers Fixes the Aggregate of Buildings and Grounds at \$154,000.

THINKS \$250,000 IS THE TRUE AP-PROXIMATE VALUE.

Majority Report Does Not Estimate Worth of Buildings as High as Gen. Coburn Does.

CONDITIONS FOR A SALE

THE APPRAISERS SUGGEST THREE ANNUAL PAYMENTS.

Full Text of the Reports Now In Secretary Root's Hands-Interests of Technical School.

The report of the board of appraisers, appointed eight weeks ago to fix the valuation of the arsenal grounds, is now in the hands of Secretary Root, of the War Department, at Washington. The report was forwarded Wednesday. The majority report was signed by three of the commission-Former Judge Byron K. Elliott, Hen ry Eitel and Charles E. Coffin-and concurred in all respects except the valuation by the other member, General John Coubrn. General Coburn filed a dissenting opinion as to the valuation fixed.

The majority fixed the valuation at \$154,-000, inclusive of grounds and buildings. General Coburn estimates the value of the property at \$250,000, and gives his reasons in his dissenting statement.

The decision to sell the arsenal property

was made by the War Department in order that the funds secured from such a sale could be reinvested in land for an army post-over 1,000 acres being required. The action of the War Department opened the way to the promoters of the Winona Technical School to undertake the collection of funds in Indianapolis to an amount sufficient to enable the directors of the school, who have already provided a liberal endowment, to bid for it. The canvass for subscriptions for a fund of \$150,000 has been in progress for several months, and the amount raised is now about \$17,000 short of the amount needed, but pledges have been made that the full sum of \$150,000 will be subscribed.

The conditions of sale recommended by the board are taken to mean that the board did not lose sight of the educational scheme that is depending largely on the purchase of the arsenal grounds. If these conditions are accepted the technical school will have ability to bid much higher than the amount of its subscription because, if the property is secured for the institution, there will be less difficulty in procuring additional subscriptions to meet whatever payments may come due later and which may exceed the \$150,000 already pledged.

The arsenal grounds contain seventy-six acres. The testimony of witnesses varied as to the value of the buildings. Some valued them as high as \$50,000, and others said their value was insignificant and that the ground alone was worth about \$150,000.

REPORT OF MAJORITY.

Three of the Appraisers Agree on Valuation of \$154,000.

The report of the majority of the commission is as follows:

To the Honorable Elihu Root, Secretary of War of the United States: The undersigned, appointed to appraise

the property of the United States at Indianapolis. Ind., known as the arsenal grounds, respectfully submit the following That before entering upon their duties as appraisers they duly took the oath re-

quired by law. That they examined under oath twenty seven witnesses and also carefully viewed the said premises and made a thorough inspection of all the buildings and structures

That after a thorough and careful consid eration of the subject they have appraised the property at \$154,000, which, in their judgment is the fair market value thereof.

They deem it proper to say that it may be that if a purchaser can be found that could make use of the buildings and structures for a special purpose, the property yould sell for a much greater sum than that above-named, but unless such a purchaser can be found their judgment is that the property could not be sold for more than said sum. They have also examined witnesses as to

the best method of selling said property. and in compliance with your request make the following recommendations: That the property be sold as a whole; that it be sold at a time and place to be fixed by the secretary of war; that public notice be given in newspapers to be selected by the secretary of war of the time and place of sale for at least sixty days prior to the time fixed for the sale; that competitive biderty shall be sealed; that the right to reject any or all bids be reserved; that the terms of sale be as follows: One-third of the purchase money in cash, one-third in one year after date of sale, one-third in two years after said date; that for the deferred payments the purchaser shall execute negotiable promissory notes, with interest at the rate of 5 per centum per annum, payable without relief from valuation or appraisement laws; that the said notes shall be secured by mortgage on the aforesaid property; that the purchaser shall have the option of paying all of the purchase price in cash, and in the event that promssory notes are executed for the deferred payments, of paying the said notes or either of them before the maturity thereof; that in case the purchaser elects to exercise the option of paying said notes or either of them before maturity he shall pay the interest thereon to date of payment; that each and all bids be accompanied by a duly certified check for \$5,000; that in case of the nonacceptance of any bld the check shall be returned to such bidder; that in case of the acceptance of the bid the check of the person whose bid is accepted shall be cred-

ited on the purchase price. The undersigned believe that the method of sale recommended is the best that can be adopted, in that it will secure competitive bidding, prevent combinations, and it any person can make use of the said build-

COBURN DISSENTS ings and structures enable the United States to obtain the best possible price for said property. Respectfully submitted,

He Believes the Arsenal Grounds Are Worth at Least \$250,000.

General Coburn's opinion, dissenting from the valuation fixed by his colleagues, is as

Indianapolis, Ind., Dec. 9, 1902.

I dissent from the opinion of my colleagues in their estimate of the value of

the buildings and grounds of the Indianap-olis arsenal. In my opinion their estimate is below the fair value. After a somewhat careful examination of all the important facts bearing on the question of value the majority of this board of appraisers have fixed their esti-

mate at the sum of \$154,000.

examination of a number of witnesses as to the condition and situation of this prop gentlemen who had a general acquaintthe business of the city of Indianapolis. and their possible uses. Some of them had been erected at very great expense, and the possibility of their adaptation to future uses was a serious question. And whether they could be applied to manufactures or an educational institution if purchased for pose was an object of inc The land is about a mile and a third from the central point of the city, which is the soldiers' monument. On the north and south ends each is a line of electric cars; one-quarter of a mile west are the lines of railroads traversing this country in all directions. One line of railroad, well known as the Big Four, is located a quarter of a mile west of this land. This company owns a strip of land reaching from their present lines to the west boundary of the arsenal tract, and it may be an easy matter to lay a track to the arsenal along St. Clair street. The city authorities are and have been very liberal in granting permits to railroad companies for the right to lay tracks for convenience in their business, so much so, that Indianapolis is famous as the Railroad City. The great Belt road is out east beyond this Big Four track at this point a mile and a half or more. I submit a map of this city showing the locations and routes. I also submit a pamphlet entitled "List of Consignees Using Side Tracks in and Adjacent to Indianapolis." This pamphlet shows among other things the connections of the Big Four system, whose tracks lie very near the arsenal, only a quarter of a mile off. In addition the great Belt road is to be seen on the map which I submit. I submit in addition a pamphlet entitled "Products of Manufacturers of Indianapolis." These indicate the situation and business of this city better than any statement I can make. It would seem that the arsenal grounds would be very valuable for manufacturing pur-

NO MEAN CITY. Indianapolis is no mean city with a population increasing rapidly above 180,000 souls, centrally situated and in a very p.oductive region. The questions as to values of land and buildings arise first out of the fact that this is a large tract in the interior of a large city, and the first one is should it be subdivided; the next one arises out of the fact that there are some large buildings on it which were erected for the purposes of an arsenal. Should the land be subdivided into large blocks and small lots for sale as an addition to the city? Can the buildings be utilized and preserved? If sold as one tract the problem is easily solved. The range of purchasers would be exceedingly small. There could be little or no competition among purchasers. The price could only be paid by wealthy men

who can handle real estate or by companies with sufficient capital. Not many such men or companies exist here. The witnesses who state that the arsenal ground and buildings should be sold in a single tract for cash put their opinions on First-That the general government does

not subdivide such real estate and sells Second-That it would cost too much in agencies and commissions to subdivide and

Third-That it would take a long time to Fourth-That the land must not only be subdivided, but expensive streets, alleys and sewers must be constructed before it can be sold, and that even then it cannot all be sold in a reasonable time.

Fifth-That the buildings are of very little value. That the residences are of old style and need repairs. That the great storehouse is unfit for use, and that other nildings are upnt for or of little value for any purpose to which they can be ap-On the other hand, to the first objection

the history of the sales of military reservations contradicts the assertion that government never subdivides real estate for sale. To the second it may be said that it is not a necessity that the subdivision and sale of real estate should be very expensive. Nor is it true that it would take a long time to complete the sales. Nor is it true that expensive improvements need be made before it is offered for sale.

As to the assertion that the present build ings are of very little value, that they are in old style or out of repair or unfit for use. it is proven beyond a question that facts contradict these assertions. And in fine upon these assertions rests the basis for the undervaluation of the arsenal property. consisting of land and improvements of a very substantial character. VALUE OF BUILDINGS.

In addition several witnesses say that the buildings are mainly in good repair can be utilized, some for residences or both; that they are worth as they stand a very considerable sum of money; that here are sites for valuable factories to tact with railroad lines and who deliver their products in less than carloads. The great majority of side tracks of the most important of the factories, mills, warehouses and other places of business are not on the Belt road or on the Union Railway line, but on other lines of railway and their switches. Reference is made to the printed statement filed herewith, all of demonstrate that the arsenal grounds could be profitably utilized for

fine brick residences, can be utilized for manufacturing purposes. The walls and roofs are in very good repair, without decay or cracks or leaks. There is ample room for many additional factory sites there. The land is high and dry and can be easily drained to Pogue's run and the city sewers. There is no such a tract in the city for a collection of factories, so centrally located, so well fitted for the delivery of goods in less than carloads and so convenient of access by the system of railroads a quarter of a mile distant, from which switches can be run through every part of this tract of land and bring in coal and raw materials and take out their

would be an ideal place for a factory of a very large size. This building is in excellent condition and is worth from \$60,000 to \$70,000 for such purposes. The residences are excellent and are worth from \$10,000 to \$15,000 each. The other buildings are in a good state of preservation and worth, if properly utilized, the sum of \$30,000. The witnesses who put the entire value down to \$150,000 agree as to the little value of the buildings. Some state that they are of an insignificant value. Those who put (CONTINUED ON PAGE 5, COL. 1)

THE VENEZUELAN AFFAIR.



CAUTION-Have all the fun you want, but don't tread on the toes of the man with the striped pants.

ARGUMENTS FOR AND AGAINST THE PROPOSED FEDERAL LAW.

Serious Charges Made by Shipbuilders, Which Were Promptly Denied by Labor Leaders.

BY MR. GOMPERS

WHO SAID UNIONS DID NOT TAMPER WITH WARSHIPS.

Judge Payson Called "Cyclonic and Vehement"-Immigration Bill Hearing-Cuban Reciprocity Treaty.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.-The Senate committee on education and labor to-day listened to arguments for and against the eight-hour bill. James O'Connell, president of the International Association of Machinists, referred to a statement made before the committee yesterday by J. H. Mull, assistant manager at Cramps' shipyard, Philadelphia, to the effect that the members of the International Association of Machinists had tried to destroy the machinery of the battleship Alabama and the transport Thomas while they were undergoing repairs in the Cramps' yard. Mr. O'Connell said nothing of the kind had ever been brought to his attention and he did not be-

lleve it ever occurred. Mr. Frank Morrison, secretary of the American Federation of Labor, made an argument for the bill.

Former Secretary of the Navy Herbert, in an argument in opposition to the bill, declared there were few men in the House of Representatives willing to take the responsibility of opposing any labor measure, said, "this bill, and preceding bills like it, even worse than it is, passed the House by large majorities.

L. E. Payson, for the Newport News Shipbuilding Company, referred to the strike at Newport News in 1901 and said that when the battleship Illinois was about to leave the yard on her trial trip word had gone forth from the labor union that she should not leave the yard until the union's terms were complied with. He vehemently exclaimed that it was an act which, if the United States had been at war, would have been misprision of treason. "Men have suffered the loss of their lives for less acts of culpability," said he, "than were committed against our people in June a year

Samuel Gompers, president of the Federa-

tion of Labor, said he had been classed as an agitator by the "cyclonic and vehement Judge Payson," but it was the agitator who made this country a Republic, that abolished slavery, that saved the children employed in the cotton mills of the Southern States. Mr. Gompers said he wanted to take cognizance of a statement made by Mr. Mull yesterday and by Judge Payson to-day alleging that the International Association of Machinists had attempted to precipitate trouble in the Cramp shipyards during the Spanish war while government warships were being fitted out and that tamper with the machinery of a transport He vehemently denounced the charge and said that Major Carson, of the Thomas. had declared the statements as being without foundation and had said that had such an attempt been made to tamper with the have known it. "It is true," said Mr. Gompers, strike in the Cramps' shipyard delayed was not during the Spanish-American war. but late in the year 1899." He added that there was not a scintilla of truth in it. Continuing, and speaking with much fervor, Mr. Gompers said: "If any man was guilty of the act charged here yesterday it was the duty of Mr. Cramp as a citizen of our country to make a criminal charge

no ending in this demand," he said, "until it is accomplished. HOUSE PROCEEDINGS

against him and to expose to the world what

it implied. The charge has not been out-

lawed by the statute of limitation, and if

ply reacts on the heads of those who have

made the accusation." He declared that

if the bill should fail to pass it would be

back again in the next Congress. "There is

the charge has no foundation in fact it sim-

Calendar Cleared of Private Pension Bills, 173 Being Passed.

especial interest. The bill to appropriate \$1,000,000 for the eradication of the foot and a special order for next Tuesday, with the understanding that only the legislative features of the bill would be considered and that the appropriation would be reported from the appropriations committee. Mr. McCall, of Massachusetts, introduced a bill authorizing the President to enter

into a reciprocal agreement with Great Britain whereby coal mined in the United States may be shipped into Canada free of duty and Canadian coal admitted into the United States free of charge. Delegate Wilcox, of Hawaii, introduced a bill appropriating \$225,000 for the construction of a revenue cutter to be stationed at Honolulu

The committee on public buildings and grounds reported favorably the bill introduced by Mr. Mercer, chairman of the committee, appropriating \$7,000,000 for the purchase of a site and for the erection of court of the United States, the Department of Justice, national law library and (CONTINUED ON PAGE 6, COL. 5.)

NONE OF THE CABLE LAID

FIRST ATTEMPT AT SAN FRANCISCO WAS A FAILURE.

Unfavorable Tide the Chief Cause-Clarence H. Mackay and Others Slightly Injured.

cable in her hold, is floating idly in San

by the workmen on shore. for a short time. Frank Hotaling, of New York, was struck in the face, sustaining a cut. George Frazer, a photographer,

COMPANY SHORT OF MONEY.

Has Spent Twenty-Six Millions in Im provements in Five Years-Further Decline of Stock.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 12.-There were three important developments to-day in connection with the collapse of the shares the Consolidated Lake Superior Comduring to-day's operations on the Stock some of the labor men had attempted to Exchange. At a meeting of the directors of the company the resignation of President F. S. Lewis was received and accepted. His successor was not chosen. The directors issued a statement announcmachinery of the ship he (Carson) would ing that the last quarterly dividend of 14 for the benefit of the people of the island per cent. payable Dec. 15 had been dethe departure of the Thomas for a week has succeeded in arranging for a loan or ten days, but as a matter of fact it of \$1,000,000. Mr. Lewis had been president of the corporation only since Oct. 25, when the chief merit in the statement was that | he was elected to succeed E. V. Douglass,

> In the market to-day Consolidated Lake Superior preferred stock dropped to 33%. closing of the company's steel rail mill at Sault Ste. Marie, which appears to have precipitated the spectacular decline of the stock, is said by officials to be due to the noncompletion of blast furnaces, steel plants and other improvements the contractors being nearly two years behind in their work. F. H. Clergue, general manager, wired the directors from Sault Ste. Marie to-day that he had closed a contract for a large order of steel rails at \$32 a ton for the Intercolonial Railway. which is controlled by the Canadian government. During the past five years the company has expended \$26,000,000 for im-

SENTIMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES IS AGAINST TARIFF REVISION.

Mr. Hemenway of Opinion that Congress Should Let Schedules Alone and Permit Prosperity to Reign.

ANOTHER EFFORT FOR HERNLY

MESSRS. WATSON AND BEVERIDGE

WILL SEE THE PRESIDENT.

Washington Notes and Incidents o Interest to Indianians-C. B. Landis

Recites Poetry in a Theater.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12 .- It is almost cer-

Staff Correspondence of the Journal.

tain there will be no extra session of Congress. The feeling is that the only excuse for one would be to revise the tariff, and the prevailing sentiment among the Indi-SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 12.-An unsuc- ana members is that this should not be cessful attempt was made to-day to lay done. Representative Hemenway gave it and are doing British work. There is one the shore end of the Pacific cable. As a as his opinion to-day that there would be British cruiser at this port. The other result the big steamer Silvertown, with the | no need of an extra session. Congress will adjourn about the 18th or 20th of this month | ezuelan coast. The navigation of the Ori-Francisco bay. Aboard the Silvertown and will reconvene in January. The Indi- noco has been reopened. there is keen disappointment that adverse ana members will return to their homes for conditions made a failure of to-day's at- the holidays. Mr. Hemenway says when tempt to lay the first span of cable toward | Congress gets down to business after the the new American possessions. A strong | holidays its work will be dispatched more unfavorable tide was the chief cause of the | rapidly, and he thinks it can all be accomfailure of the first step in the great under- plished in one session. In reference to taking. Minor accidents were encountered tariff legislation Mr. Hemenway said this evening: "I think it is about time Re-Just before the attempt was abandoned publicans were speaking out in regard to that the Venezuelan government has refor the day a number of men took hold of this matter and stating their side of the quested him to propose to Great Britain the hawser for a final pull. The hawser case. Labor is well employed at increased and Germany that the difficulties arising flew up and struck Clarence Mackay on the | wages, factories are all running and farmers are receiving high prices for everything they have to sell. With these conditions of affairs existing there is no reason why should be disturbed by passing a new tariff bill that would result in paralyzing the inwas also hit in the face and his camera dustries of the country for at least eighteen months or two years. It is impossible to have prosperity and good times in this country without stability in our tariff system, and if we undertake to change it every time the wind changes it would result in business depression and hard times. There CONSOLIDATED LAKE SUPERIOR can be no perfect tariff bill. Tariff bills are the result of compromises in which many contending interests have to be brought together, and to that end the best efforts are put forth, but the man who expects a perfect tariff bill is dreaming. At this time it would be folly to enter into a general revision of the tariff, and that is what an extra session of Congress means."

> Representative Crumpacker will this summer wear a handsome piece of headgear presented by a Porto Rican friend, Commissioner De Gateau. The hat was sent to Mr. Crumpacker's apartments in the Dewey with a note explaining that the gift was : token of esteem in which the congressman from the Tenth Indiana district is held by | London and Berlin, as it felt the difficulty the people of Porto Rico. Mr. Crumpacker won the friendship of the Porto Ricans last | the peaceful methods of arbitration. The summer by introducing a bill turning all the | reprisals made by the Venezuelans for the public lands in Porto Rico over to the insular government, to be held or disposed of after the President had taken whatever veloped the relations between the countries land was necessary for military or naval stations. The bill passed the Flouse, and after a stormy career, having been twice the principals prefer to designate it as lost, went through the Senate the last day something less. In doing so Great Britain of the session.

Representative Watson feels honored at having a second time been appointed member of the board of visitors to the Naval Academy. The board visits the academy in June. Mr. Watson said to-day, in reference to Mr. Hernly's candidacy for a place on the board of general appraisers, that he would make another call on the President in Mr. Hernly's interests as soon as Senator Beveridge has time to accompany him.

That the people of the Southwest are intensely interested in the statehood telegrams are being received in large numon territories. Some of the members of minders of the question that is before them. A few days ago Senator Quay received a barrel of very fine apples, which were sent by some of his admiring friends. On Senator Beveridge's desk the other morn-(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6, COL. 6.)

and British Threaten to Bombard.

than a few days ago. Yesterday's develop-**NEITHER EUROPEAN POWER LIKELY** ments were: President Castro asked for TO ACCEPT ARBITRATION. arbitration; Great Britain disavowed re-

LITTLE HOPE FOR PEACE

Minister Bowen Forwards Castro's Proposition and Will Act As Mediator if Chance be Given.

cao, dated, Dec. 11: "The foreign residents SUMMARY OF SITUATION of Puerto Cabello are taking refuge on

BRITAIN'S ATTITUDE OUTLINED BY HER FOREIGN MINISTER.

Excitement at Puerto Cabello, Where Foreigners are Seeking Refuge on War Vessels.

Germany at this stage of the embroglio other means Venezuela could be bound to would accept a proposal of arbitration. Secretary Moody said, as he left the executive offices after the meeting, that this government would not send at this time, at least, any warships to Venezuelan waters. United States vessels are in close Statements attributed to the consuls and proximity to Venezuela, but their presence in Venezuela is not regarded now as necesing against Germany than against Great | sary.

CASTRO ALARMED.

While Taking Defensive Measures He Has Asked for Arbitration.

CARACAS, Dec. 12 .- It is stated on good authority that the Venezuelan government has asked United States Minister Bowen to act as arbitrator in the controversy with Great Britain and Germany.

The English telephone office here has Preservative measures have been taken. All the deposits of coal at the navy yard and all the British cars on the Laguayra Railroad have been brought to Caracas, rendering impossible the transportation of the allied troops by rail. General Ferrera,

the minister of war, spent all day yesterday in choosing spots in the mountains where trenches are to be dug. The Governor of Caracas has issued the following decree: "All Venezuelans living in the federal district, between the ages of eighteen and fifty years, must enroll themselves in the militia; any such persons refusing to enroll voluntarily, as patriotism demands, will be declared traitors and sent before the tribunals." On Wednesday, after a long conference with President Castro, United States Minister Bowen obtained an order for the liberation of the remaining British and German subjects who were held prisoners and an hour later all had been released

Minister Bowen and Secretary of Legation Russell went to the jail five times and assisted the poor colored British subfor the release of the prisoners has made a good impression and is looked upon as a politic act on the part of President Castro. Everyone in Caracas believes the situation to be desperate and threatens war unless Minister Bowen succeeds in having the matters in dispute submitted to arbitration. It is said on the authority of an official near to President Castro that the President allowed Minister Bowen to communicate with the Berlin and London governments through the State Department at Washington, this being the only hope of avoiding a serious conflict. It is reported the plan of the British and German forces is to secure the ports of Laguayra and Puerto Cabello.

Laguayra to Be Defended.

LAGUAYRA, Dec. 12.-The defense preparations at the strategic points on the heights back of the town are being vigorously pushed forward. The deposits of San Carlos have been romoved. Great patriotic demonstrations are being made and everyone capable of bearing arms is offering his services. The embargo placed on the harbor corporation has been reof the cablegram. When he returned to moved.

SO FAR, AND NO FARTHER.

British and German Operations Limmediately cabled to Berlin and London. It is probable replies will be received over ited by the United States. night and will be sent by the State De-

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 12.-The Republic's Washington correspondent says: In addition to the previous statements of the limitations under which Great Britain and Germany must act in Venezuela in order to avoid a collision with the United States this explanation is made on high authority: "Neither Great Britain nor Germany have a free hand in Venezuela as that term is understood to apply in Asiatic or African countries, where the influence of other countries does not prevail. Both countries

principles of the Monroe doctrine. "They have explained that the debts are lawfully due their subjects; that President Castro's government has failed to acknowledge the indebtedness and has flouted all efforts on their part to obtain payment or to fix a time when payment might be expected to begin.

have freely informed the United States

that it is not their intention to violate the

"The United States have been prevented from being of assistance to President Casof British ships and the arrest of British tro's government by the quixotic attitude of Cormon subjects, practically have de- of President Castro himself. This has been in many instances exasperating and always unsatisfactory "He has his own interpretation of th

Monroe doctrine. This appears to be that the United States must stand between any debtor of South American republics and a and Germany are simply following the foreign creditor, inasmuch as territorial indemnity under the Monroe doctrine is out of the question "Leaving out of consideration entirely the

financial misfortunes of Venezuela, which President Castro inherited, the earthquakes which distracted his country and the revolution which he has had to put down and the agricultural and financial crises which he had to meet, this government feels that at no time has he shown a disposition to act the part of anything but a dictator with banditti at his back.

"The frank statement by Great Britain and Germany that they were only going to collect the debts of their subjects or prepare a way to the collection of these debts has been satisfactory to the United States. This government has been perfectly willing

that they should try. "At the same time it has never consented to any proposition of reprisal contemplating the subjection of the country and the hold ing of any ports for an indefinite period. It is not possible to squeeze blood from a turnip nor is it the American idea to throw a debtor into jail. The United States stands ceived with favor, although some doubt ready at all times to act the part of was expressed whether Great Britain and mediator, although it has not offered its